

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 272

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to recognize Melvin Grace for fifty-five years as a Tennessee small business owner.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those Tennessee small business owners who have a long-standing commitment to providing exceptional service to their customers; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Melvin Grace, owner and operator of Payless Food Store and Ace Hardware in Hermitage Springs; and

WHEREAS, a 1959 graduate of Hermitage Springs High School, Mr. Grace began farming after graduating but had always heard about his grandfather operating a grocery store; this lineal inspiration coupled with his community's need for such a store inspired him to open his own grocery store at 17171 Clay County Highway in Hermitage Springs fifty-five years ago; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Grace purchased the edifice that would house the first iteration of his business, Country Grocery, in October 1967 and spent the next two months preparing it for the grand opening, which took place on December 15, 1967; and

WHEREAS, at that time, the store was a hub of local life, as much a community center as a grocery store; by the 1970s, he had built his present-day store and ran it as a Western Auto, before ultimately moving the grocery store, renamed Payless Food Store, into the building in the 1980s and adding Ace Hardware only a few years ago; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Melvin Grace and the Grace family have owned several retail businesses, including ten Save-A-Lot stores, several Ace Hardware and Western Auto stores, a local Dairy Burger, and laundromats; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Grace's success is directly attributable to his love of serving his community and his outstanding work ethic; he works seven days a week and spends his time farming when he is not working at the store; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Grace is most grateful for the love of his wife, Claris; sons, Mark and Marvin; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, for five and a half decades, Melvin Grace has been providing superior products and customer service to the citizens of Hermitage Springs, and it is fitting that he be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Melvin Grace on fifty-five years as a Tennessee small business owner, wishing him much continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.